

Evening Telegraph

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TO ADVERTISERS.

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earlier hour, we urgently request that advertisements may
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1864.

**THE SIXTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT DIFFICULTIES.**

The difficulties involved in the Congressional contest in the Sixteenth District appear to be somewhat complicated. Hon. A. H. COFFROTH, Democratic, and General WILLIAM H. KOONTZ, Republican, ran for Congress last October, and claim to have received a majority of legal votes. Neither of the two returns made by the Secretary of the Commonwealth has been signed by all the Election Judges. The majority of the Board consists of Democratic Return Judges, whose decision that a number of "saboteur" votes should not be counted in from Fulton and Bedford counties, notwithstanding the votes were regularly returned to the offices of the different prothomolaries, is the pivot upon which the real difficulty turns. General KOONTZ, including the army votes rejected by the Democratic Return Judges, has a majority of sixty-eight. With the facts with respect to the army votes, however, the decision of the Governor has nothing at all to do. His place was merely to decide which of the two returns before him was legal. The writer was referred to Attorney-General MANNOR, who decided that both the returns were illegal. Neither KOONTZ nor COFFROTH therefore is declared by the Governor elected, and upon Congress, therefore, the final resolution of the subject devolves.

The opinion of Attorney-General MANNOR is prefaced by a minute detail of the facts. In his statement of the law he remarks that in the present instance it happens, for the first time, it is believed, that two different bodies of men, each claiming to be the Board of District Return Judges, present papers which they style returns of the election. He reviews the illegality of KOONTZ's and of COFFROTH's returns, and at the conclusion of his opinion remarks:

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THE INCREASE OF CRIME.

The press in New York, and elsewhere, is complaining of the increase of crime. The subject is even arresting the notice of magistrates and judicial officers, who speak of it with some earnestness and apprehension. The doctots of the Courts of Oyer and Terminer are swelled with criminal cases of greater or less degree, and their dockets are daily crowded with culprits, from the petty thief to the garrulous and the murderer. It must be confessed that all of our large cities are the scene of much depravity and violence of one kind or another, and that the amount of crime daily and nightly committed may be on the increase. Yet we doubt whether we are much worse off in this matter than most of the capitals of other countries. Wherever population is concentrated in dense masses, there must be much more motive and opportunity for violations of both the civil and moral law, than in sparsely settled communities.

Great cities are the natural rendezvous of adventurers and vagabonds of all sorts and grades, from the fashably-appareled and impudent blackleg, who caricatures in his person the exterior of a well-to-do man of the world, who has no visible vocation, to the hard-fisted and hand-up-looking eave, who evidently earns his bread in no very reputable way, and has written, in quite legible characters, all over his grim and forbidding presence, the practical motto that "the world owes him a living." The streets of every metropolis are filled with beggars, who might be honest, self-supporting people, in many cases, did they not prefer to eat the dry crust of charity in shameless sloth, rather than labor for a better meal. And where we find the dross who begs his subsistence, we very confidently look for the rascally rascal who steals it.

Criminals of all classes cannot live in the rural districts, and hence they flock to the towns. There they find not only more prey, but a better chance of security for themselves, cast a lustre on the country of their birth. She has warriors, statesmen, and authors of whom any land might be proud. When some subject of nobility asks for her Napoleons and her Caesar, she may with pride reply that she has no Caesars, no Napoleons, but that she has a WASHINGTON, a PUTNAM, a SCOTT, and a GLANT. Venice kept a golden book, in which were inscribed the names of her greatest citizens; but it is in the hearts of her votaries that freedom records the memory of her heroes. In the civic arena she has her champion—the intellectual giant—her HAMILTON, her JEFFERSON, MADISON, and MARSHALL, while in the forum she is ably represented by WENDELL, with his rigid logic, by CLAY, with his burning eloquence, by the talented yet erratic RANDOLPH. They are the CHATHAM and MIRABEAU of America.

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